

# BROWNSVILLE DAILY HERALD

Brownsville Herald Publishing Co.

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 1912

**SPLENDID TEMPLE OF JUSTICE**  
Elsewhere in today's Herald ap-  
pears a picture of Cameron County's  
new court house, on which construc-  
tion is to begin shortly. As shown  
by the picture and accompanying de-  
scription, this will be indeed a mag-  
nificent temple of justice. The cost,  
including the site, will be about  
\$200,000. Though the present needs  
of Cameron County might be accom-  
modated by a somewhat smaller and  
less pretentious court house, yet the  
county commissioners felt that we  
are building not for today alone, but  
for the future as well. In view of  
the fact that Brownsville's popula-  
tion has nearly if not fully doubled  
within the past twelve years, and of  
its continued rapid development and  
exceedingly bright prospects for the  
near future, it was wisely consid-  
ered that the town will soon be one  
of the largest cities in the state, and  
that the new court house must be  
built to accommodate a population  
many times its present size. There-  
fore the structure has been planned  
along generous lines and of splendid  
proportions. The new court house  
will be second in magnitude and  
costliness in very few in the state.  
Sited in the center of an entire  
city block, it will for many scores of  
years to come stand as a commenda-  
tory monument to the progress of  
Cameron County.

The best is yet to come at the Mid-  
winter Fair.

The man who starts out with more  
money than brains generally man-  
ages to even up the two early in his  
career.

Don't forget that this is true plant-  
ing season for the Lower Rio Grande  
Valley. And don't forget, while  
planning Mr. Planter, to set out some  
fir trees. No fruit trees grow faster  
or yield in shorter time in this sec-  
tion and no fruit is more luscious or  
more thoroughly wholesome and en-  
joyable.

Looking at the large amount of lit-  
erature setting forth the fine quali-  
ties of aspirants for the coveted of-  
fices for which elections are to be  
held next November, which floods  
the mails these days, the country  
sincerely need not complain of a lack of  
available timber for the offices.

One saw many comments just now  
on the "blue-haired" lady year con-  
tacts of the women making proposals  
of marriage but who can quote a real  
example of a woman's doing the lean  
year act in reality?

The outlook for the Lower Rio  
Grande Valley was never better. The  
recent splendid rains have put the  
ground in perfect condition. The two  
little cold snaps have helped to des-  
troy any left over crop pests, and  
the farmers are anticipating a pros-  
perous year.

**E. R. T. HOWARD**

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SORGHUM SEED SPECIAL  
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MARKET PLAZA

With one-half the republican party  
disgusted and heartily at variance  
with Wm. H. Taft and the other half  
hating Teddy Roosevelt and dread-  
ing four years more of linguistic  
rule, it looks as if LaFollette may  
stand a good chance for the nomina-  
tion. And, if either Taft or Roosevelt  
get the nomination, and the demo-  
crats agree upon some really good  
man, the chances are surely favorable  
for that man's success.

The outlook for the coming  
spring shows a rather scant crop,  
and the probability appears to be  
that the United States will be im-  
porting onions before long. The far-  
mer with an onion patch should guard  
it carefully, as the odoriferous bulbs  
will represent hard cash and plenty  
of it, the moment they are ready for  
market.

Important changes are pending in  
the management of the Brownsville  
road. No doubt some people know  
some things they won't tell just now  
about the matter, but it will all come  
out soon. If the principle of promot-  
ing those who have been both effi-  
cient and faithful in serving the  
road shall prevail, it is quite pro-  
bable that one or two who have  
been familiar figures at Brownsville  
may go higher up.

The state chemist found adulter-  
ated milk being sold in one of the  
leading cities of the state, which fact  
has been duly advertised in the news  
dispatches. The result will be that  
people eating that place probably  
will cut out milk from their menu.  
That one dishonest milkman may  
hurt the entire milk trade of a city.

Don't fail to tell the visitors that  
the city is soon to have paved streets.  
That outlook goes far towards con-  
solidating us for the bad condition of  
our streets resulting from the re-  
cent almost unprecedented "spell" of  
rainy weather.

**THE MAJESTY OF THE LAW.**

To The Herald.  
During the recent trial of the  
Reynolds held here in the federal  
court, I attended the proceedings  
quite regularly, being interested not  
only by individual leaning and in-  
heritance, in a law case, but by the  
halo of romance thrown about it by  
the peculiar nature of this special  
case. High hopes failed, conspiracies  
failed—even the broken—all gave  
glamor and life to proceedings that  
otherwise might be tedious and dull.  
Womanly pity was outwashed,  
though, by a sense of justice, and I  
looked for the end with intense feel-  
ing.

Looking to the end, however, did  
not hold me so closely that I did not  
notice the mise en scene, and in my  
opinion the surroundings were not  
worthy the drama that was being  
enacted. The majesty of the law!  
We hear that expression often, but  
have we of the south an adequate  
knowledge of its meaning? In this  
one case I could not fail to admire  
the bearing of the Judge presiding,  
which was firm, dignified, yet at  
times as gentle and kindly as a wo-  
man's nor did I underestimate the pa-  
tient, attentive following of the jury,  
nor the cleverness of counsel for  
both sides. Nothing of this escaped  
me, but I was quite as fully aware  
of the unworthy surroundings of the  
drama. Entering the hall below,  
climbing the stairway, going down  
the hall that leads to the courtroom  
—yes, even in the court room itself,  
I found it necessary at times to hold  
my skirts aside to keep them free  
from the tobacco juice that had been  
freely distributed everywhere. There  
were cuspidors placed here and there  
but evidently the men who did the  
chewing were not as good marksmen  
as Charles Dickens' friend, who could  
"spit ten feet in a circular direction  
and hit the mark every time," so  
those abominable cuspidors were  
only a "center finger," in a most un-  
pleasant picture of filth. That is a  
good, strong old Anglo-Saxon word  
that fits in there admirably. Why is  
it that in this dear Southland of ours  
only in all the world could such a  
condition be found? I believe that a  
fine imposed—and enforced—would

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soon stop the spitting.

But even if the court room were  
clean, it appears to me that it is  
hardly a proper setting for "the ma-  
jesty of the law," and I have often  
thought that the law would be more  
widely and deeply respected if its  
machinery were made more impres-  
sive. I was in a court room in San  
Francisco once, and was struck by  
the fine appearance of it. Back of  
the platform on which the judge sat  
was a niche, whose Gothic arch was  
draped with handsome curtains, be-  
neath which a massive chair also of  
Gothic design, was placed for his  
honor. A handsome mahogany desk  
was in front of him, and the space  
in front for the clerk, beadle, pris-  
oner, counsel etc., as well as that for  
the jury had a massive railing. The  
floor of these spaces as well as that  
outside of them, was covered with  
a fine carpet, and there was not a  
cuspidor to be seen! Naturally, there  
was no tobacco chewing nor spitting.

In England and Canada they go  
even farther, for both judge and  
counsel wear gowns and, I believe,  
wigs. The judges do, I am sure, and  
Carlyle has told us the advantage of  
clothing. Even in the ordinary walks  
of life, proper clothing has its effect.  
One deals with more satisfaction  
with a grocer who is well clothed,  
than with another who is slovenly  
dressed, and I am sure the gown and  
wig must add to the impressiveness  
of a judge's sentence.

Another thing. The oath taken in  
court with hand uplifted should, in  
my opinion, be made more impressive  
by a more solemn reading. It is a  
very solemn oath, but must neces-  
sarily lose force by a careless reading.

I suppose the room and furnishing  
of a Federal Court is the work of  
the United States government, but  
the cleanliness of it certainly lies in  
the hands of the people, and we are  
shamefully lacking in our respect to  
the spirit and intent of the law as  
set forth there. There can be no dig-  
nity where there is no cleanliness.

However there are only the  
thoughts and ideas of a woman—one  
who has no vote and doesn't want  
one either! and, of course, a large  
majority of the ruling sex will sim-  
ply put them aside as "a woman's no-  
tions," but I love my country, and  
while I see and admire so much in  
the southern men, still I can see  
their faults only too plainly. One  
of these, and the worst, is a spirit of  
lawlessness—of want of respect for  
the law, and this will never be cor-  
rected until the court room is made  
more dignified—the law more im-  
pressively set forth. Until then the  
"Majesty of the law" will continue  
to be an empty phrase, used by bi-  
tant speakers to round a sentence ef-  
fectively, and the law itself will lack  
both dignity and effect.

The Herald gives today a picture  
and description of Cameron County's  
fine new Court House. I wonder if I  
may indulge in the hope that its halls  
and chambers may be held in greater  
respect than the Federal court room  
—that they may more worthily up-  
hold the "Majesty of the law."

MARGARET HADLEY POSTER.

**Last Night's Dance.**

The semi-leap year dance given  
last night by the young men and  
young ladies of the city was a suc-  
cess despite cold weather.

Although the dance was financed  
by the young men, the young ladies  
provided the refreshments, chose  
their own escorts and solicited the  
dances.

The refreshments consisted of cof-  
fee, cake and sandwiches. Those  
present were:

Mesdames E. L. Hicks, H. F.  
Grant, Charles More and J. S. Mc-  
Cane. Misses Louise and Marie  
Grant, Ethel and Elsie Neale, Ray  
and Rose Stowe, Sylvia and Jean-  
nette Armstrong, Amy Wise, Pauline  
Irwin, Isabel Pierce, Beatrice Kin-  
lock, Laura and Adelaide Celaya, Lu-  
cille Champion and Anita Cowen, all  
of Brownsville. Miss Saunders of  
Washington D. C., Miss Heard of Re-  
fugio and Miss Culman of San An-  
tonio.

Messrs. E. L. Hicks, Dr. Major  
Schiffeld, E. G. Smyth, Dr. J. S. Mc-  
Cain, James Kowalski, Wm. Pater-  
nat, D. Spero A. R. Schwab, Elmo  
Grider, Robert Wagner, Harold Cow-  
en, Raymond Goy, Joyce R. Wood,  
Lester Smyth, J. J. Fox, Miles Wood-  
zer, Cone Sneeringer, F. Kirkham, J.  
Coffman Paul Kowalski and Portis  
Gay.

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BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS

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**The People's Ice Company**

the latter. Both are reliable Firms.

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